

Emerson Legislative Update January 2003

92nd Michigan Legislature takes office—The 92nd Michigan Legislature officially took office on Wednesday, January 8, 2003. After the swearing-in, Senate Democratic Leader Bob Emerson, of Flint, spoke to the chamber about the great responsibility that voters have given to the newly elected senators. Emerson said that hopefully through consensus the Senate will be able to tackle the issues facing Michigan in a way that best serves the state.

Senate Democrats offer new website—This updated website has a new URL and is available on the Internet at <http://senate.michigan.gov/dem>. The website provides caucus and government information as well as links to individual pages for the 16 Senate Democrats.

Senator Emerson welcomes new leadership team—Senate Democratic Leader Bob Emerson, of Flint, has announced the new caucus leadership team. Those members and their positions are as follows: Senator Mark Schauer, of Battle Creek, is the Minority Floor Leader; Senator Liz Brater, of Ann Arbor, is the Assistant Leader; Senator Gilda Jacobs, of Huntington Woods, is the Assistant Floor Leader; Senator Ray Basham, of Taylor, is the Caucus Chair; Senator Hansen Clarke, of Detroit, is the Assistant Caucus Chair; Senator Jim Barcia, of Bay City, is the Minority Whip; Senator Dennis Olshove, of Warren, is the Assistant Minority Whip. Senator Jim Barcia was also elected Associate President Pro Tempore by his Senate colleagues on January 8 after Senators took the oath of office. In this position, Senator Barcia will be in line to preside over the Senate in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor.

Senate Committee considers Governor's appointments—The Senate Committee on Government Operations held confirmation hearings on the first of Governor Jennifer Granholm's appointments of individuals to head state departments. On January 14 and 15, the committee approved Jay Rising, the governor's choice for State Treasurer, and Lansing Mayor David Hollister, the governor's choice to head the Department of Commerce, Consumer and Industry Services. The appointments now go to the full Senate for a vote.